

INTRODUCING WISCONSIN FAST FORWARD.

The Wisconsin Fast Forward worker training grant program helps address the crucial need for skilled workers in Wisconsin by making funds available for demand-driven workforce training. Highlights include:

- Governor Scott Walker signed the program into law in March 2013 with overwhelming support from the state legislature.
- Administered by the Department of Workforce Development's Office of Skills Development (OSD), a central point of contact for businesses interested in growing their workforce.
- Available for businesses whose need cannot be met through an existing program.
- Grant program announcements will be issued based on employer labor needs identified through the inquiry process and borne out by labor market data.
- Emphasis will be given to businesses working in partnership with other businesses, workforce and economic development organizations, and other workforce partners.



To be responsive, we want to hear from you.

- Do you have information or insights on a business or business sector that is having difficulty attracting and retaining qualified workers?
- Do you have an innovative strategy for building human capital, skills and talent in Wisconsin?
- Do you have a suggestion that will bring together a collaborative effort to improve the way in which we develop and deploy talent?

Please contact us at:

WisconsinFastForward.com



WisconsinFastForward@dwd.wisconsin.gov



608.267.3803



The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
Office of Skills Development
dwd.wisconsin.gov

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development is an Equal Opportunity Employer program.

THE FAST TRACK FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.



WISCONSIN **FAST** **FORWARD**

➔ SKILLED WORKERS. SMART BUSINESS. STRONG WISCONSIN.

SEC-17536-P (N.11/2013)

MEETING THE WORKFORCE NEEDS OF WISCONSIN.



State-funded workforce training programs are a valuable complement to traditional workforce programs. Their focused approach takes into account Wisconsin's workforce and training needs. Wisconsin Fast Forward meets those needs through flexible, customized workforce solutions delivered by training partners, selected by participating businesses.

Wisconsin Fast Forward encourages local collaboration and the development of sustainable talent pipelines that align with employer needs. The program supplements existing training programs available through Wisconsin's workforce development system.

GOALS AND OUTCOMES.

Wisconsin Fast Forward grants enable businesses, in partnership with workforce training providers, to deliver customized training to incumbent workers and/or local job seekers. To maintain accountability and transparency of outcomes, OSD will track training completions, job placements, wage increases, promotions, job retention and overall return on investment.

Critical training program outcomes include:

- Number of unemployed workers who gain employment.
- Number of underemployed workers who gain new employment.
- Number of incumbent workers who receive increased compensation.
- Wages earned by workers before and after participating in a training program.

HOW TO APPLY.

Wisconsin Fast Forward applications can be submitted in response to a Grant Program Announcement (GPA).

Highlights of the process include:

- GPAs will be released regularly to solicit applications from specific sectors based on Wisconsin workforce needs that are supported by labor market data.
- Most GPAs will be available for all businesses within a specific industry sector; however, some announcements may specifically target small businesses.
- Applicants are encouraged to work with businesses, training providers, local workforce and economic development organizations, and post-secondary institutions.
- GPAs and application instructions are available at **WisconsinFastForward.com**.
- OSD will review and approve proposals in a competitive process. Grants will be awarded from \$5,000 to \$400,000.

REAL-TIME RESULTS.

Wisconsin Fast Forward is also developing a cutting-edge labor market information system (LMIS). The new system, with a planned launch in 2014, will:

- Provide real-time labor intelligence,
- Serve as a forum to connect job seekers with employers that have available jobs, and
- Offer automated skills-matching functionality, self-assessments to determine an individual's work readiness and links to training opportunities.

In addition, the Department of Workforce Development's new **Skill Explorer** helps connect job seekers to jobs and helps employers find job applicants with the right skills for their workforce needs. This innovative, web-based search tool:

- Enables job seekers to search for openings based on skills instead of by job titles,
- Uses cutting-edge research by our labor market economists to search through skill sets and find occupations that span many different industries, and
- Can be accessed at <http://skillexplorer.wisconsin.gov>.

COLLABORATIVE WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS.

OSD also works in consultation with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, the Wisconsin Technical College System and other workforce partners to explore existing training programs and develop the best workforce solution for your training needs. To request assistance with your training needs, submit an online inquiry at WisconsinFastForward.com.



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